

**CLAIM SET AS AMENDED**

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicular communication apparatus comprising:

at least one helmet worn by an operator of a vehicle, said at least one helmet incorporated with a speaker and a microphone mounted thereon, and further including a mounted helmet side infrared transmitter/receiver connected to the speaker and the microphone;

a vehicle body provided with a vehicle body side transmitter/receiver for carrying out infrared communication with the helmet side infrared transmitter/receiver;

wireless communication means connected to the vehicle body side infrared transmitter/receiver and arranged with communication operating means separately from the wireless communication means in at a position operably accessible to the operator during operation of the vehicle; and

~~a cabinet having a lateral dimension substantially greater than a height dimension disposed along a rear surface of a handlebar of the vehicle in a position adjacent to a grip, the cabinet housing a communication module, the communication operating means the transmitter/receiver being disposed on a lateral end of the cabinet rear surface of a handlebar adjacent to the grip so that signals emitting from/to the transmitter/receiver pass directly over a shoulder of the operator of the vehicle to/from a helmet of a rear passenger of the vehicle.~~

B1  
Cont.

2. (Previously Presented) The vehicular communication apparatus according to claim 1, further comprising a frequency selecting dial above the communication operating means.

B1  
Cont

3. (Original) The vehicular communication apparatus according to claim 1, wherein the vehicle is a handlebar type vehicle, the vehicle body side infrared ray transmitter/receiver is arranged at a position offset to either a left side and a right side of the handlebar; and the helmet side infrared ray transmitter/receiver is arranged at least at a front face of the helmet.

4. (Original) The vehicular communication apparatus according to claim 3, wherein the communication operating means arranged at the vicinity of the grip is combined with the vehicular side infrared ray transmitter /receiver to thereby constitute an integrated module.

5. (Original) The vehicular communication apparatus according claim 1, further comprising a display unit for indicating a transmitting/receiving state of the wireless communication means, said display unit disposed in a vicinity of the grip of the handlebar.

6. (Currently Amended) A vehicular communication apparatus comprising:

at least one helmet worn by an operator of a vehicle, said at least one helmet incorporated with a speaker and a microphone mounted thereon, and further including a mounted helmet side infrared transmitter/receiver connected to the speaker and the microphone;

wireless communication means connected to the helmet side infrared ray transmitter/receiver, said wireless communication means being carried or attached to the operator;

a vehicle body mounted with a vehicle body side infrared transmitter/receiver for carrying out infrared communication with the helmet side infrared ray transmitter/receiver and arranged with communication operating means separately from the wireless communication means at a position operably accessible to the operator during operation of the vehicle; and

~~a cabinet having a lateral dimension substantially greater than a height dimension disposed along a rear surface of a handlebar of the vehicle in a position adjacent to a grip, the cabinet housing a communication module, the communication operating means the transmitter/receiver being disposed on a lateral end of the cabinet rear surface of a handlebar adjacent to the grip so that signals emitting from/to the transmitter/receiver pass directly over a shoulder of the operator of the vehicle to/from a helmet of a rear passenger of the vehicle.~~

7. (Previously Presented) The vehicular communication apparatus according to claim 7, further comprising a frequency selecting dial above the communication operating means.

8. (Original) The vehicular communication apparatus according to claim 7, wherein the vehicle is a handlebar type vehicle, the vehicle body side infrared ray transmitter/receiver is arranged at a position offset to either a left side and a right side of the handlebar; and the helmet side infrared ray transmitter/receiver is arranged at least at a front face of the helmet.

b1  
Cont - 9. (Original) The vehicular communication apparatus according to claim 9, wherein the communication operating means arranged at the vicinity of the grip is combined with the vehicular side infrared ray transmitter /receiver to thereby constitute an integrated module.

10. (Original) The vehicular communication apparatus according claim 7, further comprising a display unit for indicating a transmitting/receiving state of the wireless communication means, said display unit disposed at a vicinity of the grip of the handle bar.

11. (Currently Amended) A vehicular communication apparatus, comprising:  
a helmet worn by a passenger of a handlebar type small-sized vehicle, said helmet incorporated with a speaker and a microphone and mounted with a helmet side infrared ray transmitter/receiver connected to the speaker and the microphone;

a vehicle body is arranged with a vehicle body side infrared transmitter/receiver for carrying out infrared ray communication with the helmet side infrared ray transmitter /receiver;  
and

a cabinet having a shape that is substantially rectangular disposed along a section of a rear surface of a handlebar adjacent to a grip, the cabinet housing the vehicle body side transmitter/receiver, a light emitting element, a light receiving element, a visual display, and communication operating means,

*B1  
Conc* ~~the communication operation means being disposed on a lateral end of the cabinet~~  
adjacent to the grip the light emitting element and the light receiving element being disposed above the visual display on a rear face of the cabinet.

12. (Currently Amended) The vehicular communication apparatus according claim 5, further comprising a light emitting elements receiving element above the display unit.

13. (Currently Amended) The vehicular communication apparatus according claim 10, further comprising a light emitting elements receiving element above the display unit.

---